

CLAIMS

1. A method of controlling a massage program having a plurality of massage stages with different massage parameters in a massage machine for providing a
5 massage according to said massage program, said method comprising the steps of storing a change in massage parameter performed in a desired massage stage during an execution of said massage program in a memory, and modifying the desired massage stage according to the change in massage parameter stored in said memory at the next execution of said massage program.

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2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said massage machine is a chair-type massage machine having a backrest portion, in which a massage head for providing a massage action is incorporated, and said massage
15 parameters comprises the kind of massage action, range of massage action, the number of massage actions, massage strength and massage speed.

3. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein when a change in total time
20 required for said massage program occurs due to the change in massage parameter in the desired massage stage, a corresponding massage parameter in another massage stage other than the desired massage stage is changed such that said massage program is completed within a predetermined time period.

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4. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said memory comprises a memory table for storing a required number of massage stages having a same massage parameter, and when the desired massage stage is stored in said memory table as a result of the change in massage parameter, another massage
30 stage stored at a predetermined position in said memory table is deleted from

said memory table, and the massage parameter of said another massage stage deleted from said memory table is changed such that said massage program is completed within a predetermined time period.

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5. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein said memory comprises a memory table for storing a required number of massage stages having a same number of massage actions, and when the desired massage stage is stored in said memory table as a result of the change in the number of massage actions,
10 another massage stage stored at a predetermined position in said memory table is deleted from said memory table, and the number of massage actions of said another massage stage deleted from said memory table is changed such that said massage program is completed within a predetermined time period.

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6. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said massage program comprises a plurality of massage stages having a same massage parameter, and when a change in massage parameter performed in one of the massage stages having the same massage parameter is stored in said memory, the massage stages
20 having the same massage parameter are modified in one lump according to the change in massage parameter stored in said memory at the next execution of said massage program.

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7. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the massage parameter comprises a combination of range of massage action and at least one of the kind of massage action, the number of massage actions, massage strength and massage speed,
said massage program comprises a plurality of massage stages having a same
30 range of massage action, and

when a change in massage parameter performed in one of the massage stages having the same range of massage action is stored in said memory, the massage stages having the same range of massage action are modified in one lump according to the change in massage parameter stored in said memory at the

5 next execution of said massage program.

8. The method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the massage parameter comprises a combination of ranges of massage action in width and height directions and at least one of the kind of massage action, the number of massage actions, massage strength and massage speed,
- 10 said massage program comprises a plurality of massage stages having at least one of a same range of massage action in the width direction and a same range of massage action in the height direction, and
- 15 when a change in massage parameter performed in one of the massage stages is stored in said memory, the massage stages having at least one of the same range of massage action in the width direction and the same range of massage action in the height direction are modified in one lump according to the change in massage parameter stored in said memory at the next execution of said
- 20 massage program.

9. Then method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said massage parameter comprises range of massage action provided by a plurality of blocks, each of
- 25 which is composed of plural combinations of range of massage action in a width direction and range of massage action in a height direction,
- an optimum block is determined from said blocks according to a predetermined correlation between the range of massage action and body-type information, and the body-type information of a user to be massaged; and
- 30 one of the plural combinations of the range of massage action in the width

direction and the range of massage action in the height direction is determined in said optimum block to meet the user's preference.

- 5 10. A massage machine for providing a massage according to a massage program having a plurality of massage stages with different massage parameters, said massage machine comprising:
an input unit configured to input a change in massage parameter;
a first memory for temporarily storing the change in massage parameter input
10 by said input unit in a desired massage stage during an execution of said massage program;
a second memory for storing the change in massage parameter provided from said first memory after the completion of said massage program; and
a control unit configured to modify the desired massage stage at the next
15 execution of said massage program according to the change in massage parameter stored in said second memory.

- 20 11. The massage machine as set forth in claim 10, wherein the massage machine is a chair-type massage machine having a backrest portion, in which a massage head for providing a massage action is incorporated.

- 25 12. A controller for a massage machine for providing a massage according to a massage program having a plurality of massage stages with different massage parameters, said massage machine comprising:
a first memory for temporarily storing a change in massage parameter performed in a desired massage stage during an execution of said massage program;
30 a second memory for storing the change in massage parameter provided from

said first memory after the completion of said massage program; and
a control unit configured to modify the desired massage stage according to the
change in massage parameter stored in said second memory at the next
execution of said massage program,

- 5 wherein the controller is detachable to the massage machine, and
comprises an input unit configured to input the change in massage parameter
and a screen for displaying the massage parameter.